

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response After Final Action, Claims 1-20 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The Final Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Herein, the title has been amended again.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musk, U.S. Patent No. 5,577,146 (hereafter Musk). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites:

An optical fiber receptacle adaptor comprising:
a single-part housing comprising ***a receptacle end having an opening and a plug receiving end***, wherein ***the opening is configured to enable inserting an external surface through the opening from an external direction without disassembling the housing***,
the receptacle end adapted for securing to an optical fiber receptacle and for inserting therein and receiving an optical ferrule receiving portion of the optical fiber receptacle, and
the plug receiving end adapted for inserting therein and receiving an optical ferrule and for urging the optical ferrule into communication with the optical ferrule receiving portion of the optical fiber receptacle.
(emphasis added)

It is respectfully asserted that Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the present invention as recited in Independent Claim 1. In particular, Independent Claim 1 recites the limitations, "***a single-part housing comprising a receptacle end having an opening and a plug receiving end,***" (emphasis added), and "***the opening is configured to enable inserting an external surface through the opening from an external direction without disassembling the housing,***" (emphasis added). In contrast, Musk discloses an optical connector comprising a plug 1 and an associated receptacle 2 having a rectangular housing 3, wherein the housing 3 is of a slit type, and has two injection-molded housing halves 3a and 3b. [Musk; Figures 1-2; Col. 3, lines 48-58]. That is, the housing 3 of Musk has part 3a and part 3b instead of being a single-part housing as in the invention of Independent Claim 1.

Further, the rectangular housing 3 has a rectangular opening 4 (or plug receiving end) at one end for receiving the plug 1. Id. The housing 3 halves 3a and 3b grip the rear end portion (or the cylindrical housing 16) of an active component 5 between them at an opposite end relative to the rectangular opening 4 (or plug receiving end). [Musk; Figures 1-2; Col. 3, lines 48-58]. That is, when the housing 3 halves 3a and 3b are joined together, the opposite end (or receptacle end) relative to the rectangular opening 4 (or plug receiving end) has an opening that is cylindrical to accommodate the cylindrical external surface of the active component 5. The active component 5 is held fixedly when the housing 3 halves 3a and 3b are joined together. [Musk; Figures 1-2; Col. 3, lines 48-62]. Since the active component 5 is held fixedly when the housing 3 halves 3a and 3b are joined together, it is no possible to insert the cylindrical external surface of the active component 5 through the opening (at the receptacle end which is opposite the rectangular opening 4 or plug receiving end) from an external direction without disassembling the housing 3 halves 3a and 3b. That is, the housing 3 halves 3a and 3b must be disjoined or disassembled in order to

insert the cylindrical external surface of the active component 5. Thus, Musk fails to disclose a housing comprising a receptacle end having an opening, wherein the opening is configured to enable inserting an external surface through the opening from an external direction without disassembling the housing, as in the invention of Independent Claim 1.

As described above, Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the cited claim limitations of Independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claim 1 is patentable over Musk and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-4 are dependent on allowable Independent Claim 1, which is allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 2-4 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above.

With respect to Independent Claims 8 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 8 and 18 recite similar limitations as in Independent Claim 1. In particular, the Independent Claim 8 recites the limitation, “an optical fiber receptacle adaptor having ***a single-part housing comprising a receptacle end having an opening and a plug receiving end, wherein the opening is configured to enable inserting an external surface through the opening from an external direction without disassembling the housing,***” (emphasis added). Further, the Independent Claim 18 recites the limitation, “***inserting an optical fiber receptacle into an receptacle opening at a receptacle end of an optical fiber receptacle adaptor having a single-part housing comprising a plug receiving end and said receptacle end having the receptacle opening, wherein the receptacle opening is***

configured to enable inserting an external surface through the receptacle opening from an external direction without disassembling the housing,” (emphasis added). As described above, Musk does not teach, suggest, or motivate the cited claim limitations of Independent Claims 8 and 18. Therefore, Independent Claims 8 and 18 are patentable over Musk and are in condition for allowance for reasons discussed in connection with Independent Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 9-11 and 15-17, and Dependent Claims 19-20 are dependent on allowable Independent Claims 8 and 18 respectively, which are allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 9-11, 15-17, and 19-20 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 5-7 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musk, U.S. Patent No. 5,577,146 (hereafter Musk). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent Claims 5-7 and Dependent Claim 12-14 are dependent on allowable Independent Claims 1 and 8 respectively, which are allowable over Musk. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 5-7 and 12-14 are patentable over Musk for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections and objections. All remaining claims (Claims 1-20) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1-20) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

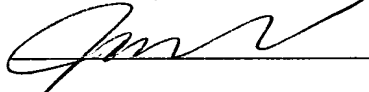
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